

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NICOSI 01956 271612Z POSS DUPE  
ACTION SS-25

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R 271535Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA  
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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1956

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2  
TAGS: PGOV, CY, TU  
SUBJECT: UN OFFICIALS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS

SUMMARY: ON JULY 26, GORGE ADVISED THAT HE AND DE CUELLAR ARE DISCOURAGED ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR CONTINUED INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS. GREEK CYPRIOT POSITIONS ARE HARDENING TOWARD RECOURSE TO UNGA AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, AND TURK CYPRIOT INTRANSIGENCE HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED BY VAROSHA ISSUE. NEVERTHELESS, DE CUELLAR PLANS TO SEE TURKISH AMBASSADOR ONHON JULY 28 TO TRY TO CONTINUE MOMENTUM IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. GORGE CALLED ON CHARGE JULY 26 TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON PROSPECTS FOR CONTINUATION OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS. AT THE MOMENT, STATUS IS THAT BOTH SIDES RECOGNIZE THEY HAVE A COMMITMENT TO ONE MORE MEETING CHAIRED BY DE CUELLAR AT THE LEDRA PALACE TO HONOR COMMITMENTS MADE AT VIENNA TALKS IN APRIL. IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO SET A DATE FOR THE MEETING BEVAUSE OF TURK CYPRIOT OBJECTIONS. UN OFFICIALS DO NOT WANT TO PRESS TOO HARD FOR AN EARLY DATE BECAUSE NEXT MEETING COULD EASILY BE THE LAST; THEY WOULD RATHER HAVE A MEETING TO BE SCHEDULED THAN TO  
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HAVE A CURRENT SESSION OF NEGOTIATIONS END WITH  
NO IMMEDIATE PROSPECTS FOR FURTHER ROUND OF TALKS.

2. GORGE NOTED THAT CURRENT CONTROVERSY OVER RESETTLEMENT OF VAROSHA IS ONLY THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF DISCOURAGING DEVELOPMENTS. HE AND DE CUELLAR HAVE ALWAYS CONSIDERED THAT GREEK CYPRIOT RESETTLEMENT OF VAROSHA WAS INDISPENSABLE TO

ANY SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATION. PUBLIC STATEMENTS AS RECENT AS JULY 25 BY DEMIREL, ERBAKAN AND ECEVIT HAVE GIVEN MORE CREDENCE TO THE IDEA THAT TURKS PLANNING NOT TO RETURN VAROSHA. THIS CAN ONLY MAKE THE GREEK CYPRIOTS MORE SURE THAT INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS WILL NOT BEAR FRUIT. DENKTASH'S RECENT STATEMENT THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS CANNOT CONTINUE UNTIL BOTH SIDES ARE ACCORDED EQUAL JUDICIAL STATUS, THAT GOC SHOULD NOT BE RECOGNIZED AS THE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF THE ENTIRE REPUBLIC BUT ONLY AS ONE OF TWO COMMUNITIES, CONSTITUTE AN ADDED INDICATION THAT IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO SCHEDULE EVEN THE ONE REMAINING MEETING IN THE CURRENT ROUND. DE CUELLAR HAS NOT DISCUSSED VAROSHA ISSUE WITH TURKISH SIDE BUT EXPECTS SUBJECT TO ARISE IN ONHON CONVERSATION (PARA FOUR).

3. LOCAL UN OFFICIALS ARE ALSO CONCERNED THAT PRESIDENT MAKARIOS' SPEECH OF JULY 20, WITH ITS STATEMENT THAT IF THERE IS NO PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS THE GOC MUST RESORT TO A REQUEST FOR SANCTIONS IN UNGA AND ASK FOR CONVOCAION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, MEANS THAT GOC HAS LITTLE INTEREST IN CONTINUING NEGOTIATIONS ON PRESENT BASIS. GREEK CYPRIOTS ARE ALSO POINTING OUT THAT VAROSHA ISSUE IS A THREAT TO CONTINUATION OF THE TALKS. EACH SUCCEEDING GOC STATEMENT ON NEGOTIATIONS FIVES LESS EMPHASIS TO POSSIBLE PROGRESS IN THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS AND MORE ATTENTION TO THE INEVITABLE REQUIREMENT TO TAKE MORE INTENSIVE UN AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ACTION.  
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4. DESPITE DISCOURAGING ASPECTS OF CURRENT SITUATION, DE CUELLAR AND GORGE PLAN TO CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS TO KEEP NEGOTIATIONS GOING. THEY WILL BE SEEKING APPOINTMENT WITH TURKISH AMBASSADOR ONHON ON JULY 28 TO DISCUSS PROSPECTS FOR NEXT NEGOTIATING SESSION. THEY PLAN TO ASK HIM FOR CLARIFICATION ON TURKISH AND TURK CYPRIOT STATEMENTS ON VAROSHA. THEY HOPE THAT WITH HIS USUAL POSITIVE APPROACH HE WILL BE ABLE TO OFFER THEM SOME HOPE OR SUGGEST A WAY THEY CAN KEEP SOME MOMENTUM GOING IN THE TALKS.

COMMENT: GORGE'S PESSIMISTIC VIEW OF SHORT-TERM PROSPECTS FOR INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS IS SHARED BY MOST OBSERVERS IN NICOISA. BOTH SIDES HAVE USED THE PRIOD OF INACTION CAUSED BY THE TURKISH ELECTIONS TO HARDEN THEIR POSITIONS. THE GREEK CYPRIOTS BELIEVE THAT THEIR TERRITORIAL PROPOSAL IN VIENNA DEMONSTRATED THAT GOC IS NOT THE OBSTACLE TO PROGRESS. THEY ALSO BELIEVE THAT THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS WILL NOT RESPOND TO THAT PROPOSAL AND THAT TALKS WILL NOT ACHIEVE PROGRESS BEFORE UNGA. THEREFORE, THE GOC FEELS FREE TO MOVE TOWARD AN "INTERNATIONALIZED", LONG STRUGGLE POLICY THAT IS ATTRACTIVE FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL REASONS. THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS HAVE UTILIZED THE ABSENCE OF DIRECTION FROM ANKARA TO SET OUT IMPOSSIBLE CONDITIONS FOR

RESUMPTION OF TALKS. MOST DIFFICULT IS DENKTASH'S DEMAND FOR  
EQUAL JURIDICAL STATUS WITH GOC AS PRECONDITION TO RESUMPTION OF  
TALKS. THE PICTURE WOULD CHANGE RAPIDLY IF NEW GOVERNMENT IN  
TURKEY DECIDES THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD CONTINUE. DENKTASH  
HAS BEEN FORCED TO BACK AWAY FROM PUBLIC STATEMENTS BEFORE, AND  
THE GREEK CYPRIOT SIDE HAS REPEATEDLY SAID THAT ITS NEGOTIATION  
WOULD ATTEND ANY MEETING CALLED BY AMBASSADOR DE CUELLAR.  
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